

Appl. No. 10/800,747

~~TEST AVAILABLE COPY~~REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

To begin, it is noted that claim 1 is a generic claim to both of the embodiments of Figures 4 and 5. Claim 1 recites that there are a plurality of amplification media segments concatenated in series and that one or more wavelengths are dropped after each segment so as to exploit a gain versus optical amplification media physical length characteristic. This is true of both Figures 4 and 5. The following is breakdown of claims that read on both embodiments, and claims that read specifically on the embodiments of Figures 4 or 5:

**Claims that read on both embodiments: 1 to 23**

**Claims that read on the embodiment of Figure 4 only: 24, 28-32**

**Claims that read on the embodiment of Figure 5 only: 25-27, 33-37 plus new claim 38**

Applicant elects the embodiment of Figure 5 for prosecution of the merits. The claims that read on this embodiment include claims 1-23, 25-27 and 33-37 and new claim 38 as outlined above.

The Examiner has also requested applicant to elect a single disclosed species. Applicant elects the disclosed species of Figure 5. With the embodiment of Figure 5, there are: a) three erbium-doped fiber lengths; b) three multi-port at-drop multiplexers; c) two optical power splitters; d) one noise suppression filter; e) one pump laser source; f) four ports on each multi-port-multiplexer. New claim 38 has been drafted to depend upon claim 33. The new claim recites these specific numbers.

Having elected the species of claim 38, the following claims read upon that species: claims 1-23, 25-27 and 33-37.

Applicant looks forward to continued prosecution on the merits of all of the claims that read upon this elected species.

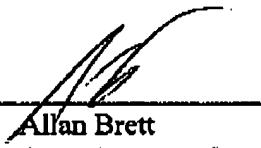
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In view of the foregoing, early favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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RAB:kbc